

Ladies in Training

On the 19th and 20th June 2018, eighteen women, on term contract to the City of Cape Town, were sent to the Transport for Cape Town depot at Atlantis for two day's training in the best practice methods of pothole filling and road patching. They are part of the City's EPWP programme offering opportunities to local communities to become involved in road maintenance and repairs.

In the morning of the first day, they were taken through the basics of how to recover and repair granular bases as well as the constituents of asphalt mixes, and how bitumen products work.

In the afternoon session, they analysed many historical photographs of actual labour intensive surfacing activities and were taught the best practice aspects of how to correctly construct road patch repairs and fill potholes.

The second day they were put through their paces and actually removed the asphalt from a 60 sq.m. distressed area. This was followed by the repair of the existing basecourse and adding new basecourse material to achieve correct levels. After compacting the basecourse, hot mix asphalt was brought in and they proceeded to rake, level and compact the asphalt as discussed the previous day.

Many photographs were taken of the practical activities which were discussed later in the day, using an overhead projector.

The end result was a patch constructed to high standards.

A second session was held at the Khayalitsha Depot at which a further 18 EPWP ladies went through the same training procedures.

We commend the City of Cape Town for their on-going programme of training all their depot teams in this discipline, all in the interest of preserving the road assets belonging to the Cape Town ratepayers.



The happy team at Atlantis



The happy team at Khayalitsha



Fixing the granular basecourse



Laying some hot mix asphalt